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The City Wilderness. A Settlement Study. By Residents and Associates of the South End House. Edited by ROBERT A. WOODS. Pp. vii, 319. Price, \$1.50. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1898.

The Twentieth Century City. By JOSIAH STRONG, D. D. Pp. 186. Cloth, 50 cents. New York: The Baker and Taylor Company, 1898.

Social Settlements. By C. R. HENDERSON. Pp. 196. Price, 50 cents. New York: Lenthion & Co., 1899.

The problems of the city will soon become the problems of the nation. The population of the twentieth century will be predominantly urban. It will be the cities and the city vote which will decide great elections. It will be city ideas and ideals which will sway the nation. Calculating the relative increase of urban over rural population upon the basis of the growth of the last fifty years the ultimate supremacy of the cities can be foretold with the measure of decades. Are present civic influences good or bad? Are tendencies upwards or downwards in the final analysis? These are the underlying problems which are attacked in the first two books before us.

It is certainly significant and hopeful that the more optimistic view is taken by those who are obviously best fitted to describe city conditions. The South End House has been generally recognized as standing in the front rank of American social settlements in the extensiveness and thoroughness of its social investigations. Therefore its hopeful tone with reference to the general social tendencies of the day brings unusual encouragement. The book does not pretend to be more than a description of present conditions in the South End of Boston; in this description, however, the reader obtains an estimate of the value of that "higher philanthropy" which is peculiarly represented by the settlement idea. Should the settlement lead and in some instances regenerate native influences already existing or should it reform the individual? This question may best be answered by quotations: "The great variety of organizations in the district serves to bridge . . . the gulfs of distinction in blood and faith which so hinder the progress of common feeling and loyalty. . . . Indeed, it is true here, as it is everywhere, that there is an ethical tendency in the very fact of association. Down in the life of the district itself hopeful forces are gathering which, in the comparison, belittle all the efforts of philanthropists and reformers." From these quotations it must not be imagined that the function of "higher philanthropy" is underrated. It is simply given a higher status than the reformation of individuals—its work is the regeneration of social ideals. It would be impossible in the brief space of this review to give a summary of the suggestive and valuable material gathered together

in this book. One practical point of importance should be noted by all who are interested in the study of municipal government; the residents of the South End House believe that the sphere of municipal activity should be extended to include all the more important economic and social questions which directly affect the inhabitants of the South End district. Furthermore the tendency toward centralization in city administration is deprecated as depriving the people of opportunities for practice and exercise in self-government.

Dr. Strong's book is somewhat less optimistic in tone. The author believes that, while the material progress of the nation during the last century has been simply marvelous, intellectual and moral progress has by no means kept the same pace. The resulting disproportion bodes ill for the future. The essential weakness in Dr. Strong's argument is that he provides no adequate basis of comparison between material and moral progress. Dr. Strong must admit that in the abolition of slavery and serfdom, the development of democratic and humanitarian ideals and in similar changes which have taken place during this century the moral progress of the world has been the greatest in modern times. Then too, much apparently material progress may mean intellectual and moral progress, though not so classed. And it is certainly idle to compare material and moral progress in gross, in the hope of reaching any valid conclusion. By emphasizing the materialism of the age he is led to ignore the value and direct advantage which lie in the simple fact of human association and organization and his proposed remedies are directed for the most part toward individual education and regeneration. The chief value of the book lies in the author's keen appreciation of the dangers immediately confronting our municipal life.

In Professor Henderson's book the historical development and present status of social settlements are set forth in a most satisfactory way. Especially valuable are the details regarding the various kinds of work carried on in different local environments. It is unfortunate that the author has not given us a discussion of the different forms of organization which appeal to different nationalities in our large cities; the size of the book perhaps rendered the discussion of such a question impracticable.

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Outline of Practical Sociology, with special reference to American conditions. By CARROLL D. WRIGHT, LL. D. Vol. I of American Citizen Series. Pp. xxv, 431. Price, \$2.00. New York, London and Bombay: Longmans, Green & Co., 1899.

Sociology, according to Dr. Wright, is a study of institutions. General sociology includes also the history of institutions, that is,